

Serial No.: 09/337,893


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Summary

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections. This application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to the effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that after considering these remarks the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,



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654092.1

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Marked Up Claims

45. (Amended) The method of claim 42, wherein the nucleic acid [backbone] includes [the] a phosphate backbone modification [on the 5' side of the nucleic acid].

46. (Amended) The method of claim [42] 45, wherein the nucleic acid [backbone] includes the phosphate backbone modification on the 3' side of the nucleic acid.

47. (Twice Amended) The method of claim [42] 45, wherein the phosphate backbone modification is selected from the group consisting of a phosphorothioate and a phosphorodithioate modification.

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